

POINT MOLATE FOCUS



NEWS OF THE NFD POINT MOLATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAMS

ISSUE 14, WINTER 2002

Landfill Cap Construction Begins at Site 1

As reported at the December Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting, construction of the cap has begun at Installation Restoration Program Site 1, the 1-acre waste disposal area. The spring and summer 2001 issues of the *Point Molate Focus* discussed the design of the landfill cover and methane venting system for the site. This issue presents an update on the landfill cover (cap) construction which began last fall.



Site 1 Before Construction

Site 1 is located in a steep ravine. The first phase of work included clearing surface vegetation and “grubbing” the site. Heavy equipment was brought in to do this work. With the recent heavy rains, however, work has been slow and erosion control activities have been put in place. These photos show the Site 1 area before and during construction.

Once the cover is in place, a special mixture of seeds prepared for Point Molate will be sprayed over the cap using a process called “hydro-seeding.” The vegetation that sprouts from this process will be typical of the native vegetation of the area.



Site 1 Cleared and Grubbed

Watch for the update on completion of the landfill cap construction in a future issue of the *Focus*!



In the process of constructing the cap

U.S. Navy Photos

Navy Conducts Advisory Board Training/Open House

On October 27, 2001, the Navy invited the members from the Navy Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) throughout the Bay Area to join them in a training and open house forum held at the former Naval Station Treasure Island.

RAB members from Point Molate, Hunters Point, Treasure Island, Alameda Point, Mare Island, Novato, FISC Alameda Annex, and Moffett Federal Airfield joined with Navy representatives from each of the former naval installations to learn more about the cleanup process, the budget process, and the role of RABs in the community.

The Navy provides the RAB forum as a service to the community in an effort to involve and communicate with community members affected by the base closings in their home areas. The members who participate in their respective RABs are a vital information source to the communities in which they serve.

Dave Olson and Cindy Turlington of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) in Washington, DC, gave presentations on the complicated budget process and the role of RABs.



U.S. Navy Photo

Marianna Potacka, Lucretia Edwards, Don Gosney and Nagaraja Rao at the October 27th Navy RAB forum.

Laura Duchnak and Michael Pound of Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest Division, presented the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) perspective and the various federal policies, which drive the cleanup process.

After the morning session, and into the early afternoon, RAB members were able to view presentations

for each of their respective installations with visual posters and graphics as well as samples of newsletters by the individual installations. The experts at each station answered questions.

Members enjoyed a day filled with information and communication with members from other RABs in the Bay area.

CLEANUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT POINT MOLATE

Since the base was closed in 1995, a number of investigations have been completed at former Naval Fuel Depot Point Molate. RAB members have volunteered many hours working with Navy, regulators, and contractors in the study and cleanup of Point Molate in preparation for property transfer. Some of the technical accomplishments achieved to date include:

- Completed investigation of soil and groundwater conditions around Point Molate's 22 large (up to 2.1-million-gallon) underground storage tanks (USTs)
- Planned for structural closure of the 22 USTs, including preparation and community review of conceptual designs, structural load testing for tank closure in place (conducted at the request of the community), design drawings, and construction specifications
- Removed 46,000 feet of underground petroleum pipeline mainly in flat-lying areas along San Francisco Bay
- Selected a remedy for Site 1 (Waste Disposal Area) with implementation of the remedy started in fall of 2001
- Removed 220 cubic yards of sandblast grit and metals-contaminated soils from Site 2 (Sandblast Grit Disposal Area), with a No Further Action Record of Decision signed by the Navy and Regional Water Quality Control Board in summer of 2000
- Completed investigations at Site 3 (Treatment Ponds Area) with remedy selection planned for spring of 2002
- Completed investigations at Site 4 (Shoreline Areas) with evaluation of need for further action expected by spring of 2002
- Completed the Comprehensive Aquatic Ecological Assessment evaluating conditions of the San Francisco Bay adjacent to Point Molate, with results showing the Bay along Point Molate is some of the healthiest in the area

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER JIL KIERNAN

Just Doing What Has to Be Done

Having joined the group in March of 1999, Jil Kiernan is a relative late-comer to the Point Molate Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). Jil's involvement with the Point Molate RAB is a given, however, considering the heritage in community activism passed on by her parents. Her father taught her an appreciation of nature and exposed her to the outdoor experience at an early age in her native Iowa. Even today, Jil expresses her indebtedness to him for that experience.

Jil has been able to carry that love of the outdoors into her profession as a park ranger for the East Bay Regional Park District these past 27 years. She's worked in many locations and in many capacities, but is currently part of a team that works with park volunteers. Jil sets up projects within various parks and works with the volunteers to accomplish projects that the regular staff may not have the time and resources to do. She's also an active member of Local 2428 of AFSCME, which represents park workers.

Jil has been an invaluable asset to the RAB's Technical Document Review Committee (TDRC), where she's helped the committee assess numerous reports and plans. Jil provides comments on these reports, which are added to other TDRC members' comments and given to the Navy, the RAB, and regulatory agencies before the documents are finalized. Jil has a keen perspective and views these documents through a different set of eyes than the other TDRC members.

Although an avid reader, even Jil finds these technical documents a difficult read. By her own admission, though, Jil volunteers to read them for two reasons. First and foremost, Jil

believes that every individual should give of themselves in whatever capacity they can. Her second reason is more practical: Jil wants to know as much as possible about the cleanup efforts. Jil admits that she would not be as knowledgeable about the contamination at Point Molate had she not read these reports. Jil needs to see for herself that the level of contamination, its effect on the environment, and the cleanup options are presented fairly.

Along with her husband Frank, Jil moved to Tara Hills in 1985. Jil's oldest child, 19-year-old daughter Siobhan (pronounced: Cho Van—it's Irish) is enrolled in college and studying kinesiology. Jil also spends time with her 16-year-old son Casey, an avid fan of extreme sports. Rounding out the clan are their black lab, a cat, some fish, and a red eared slider aquatic turtle.

"I think Point Molate is a beautiful, pristine spot and I would like to see it restored to the safe and beautiful environment it once was."

Jil recently returned to Contra Costa College for evening classes where she'll be graduating this spring with a degree in Business Management. Jil plans to transfer to Cal State Hayward to continue with her education.

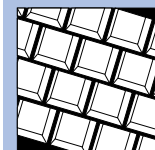
Jil's commitment to the cleanup efforts at Point Molate runs deep. Jil joins most of the other RAB members in their commitment to keeping the community involved. Jil has suggested that the RAB meetings be held in vary-



Photo by Don Gosney

ing locations to help attract a more diverse section of the community. She shares the concern that too much of the public is not even aware of where Point Molate is and what's happening there. She would also like to see the local newspapers report on the cleanup and reuse activities at Point Molate so the community can stay tuned in to what is being done for them.

Jil is coming up on her third anniversary on the RAB and considers it "an honor to work with this group." As an added bonus, Jil values the new friends she's made as a result of her commitment here. The real bonus, though, has been having such a sharp and dedicated member of that community looking out for everyone's best interests.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can read more about the Navy's environmental program

on the internet! The Navy's Southwest Division Environmental Web Page address is <http://www.efds.w.navy.mil/environmental/envhome.htm>

Current RAB Members February 2002

Bruce Beyaert
Henry Clark
Don Delcollo
Lucretia Edwards
Sarah Eeles
Gaye Eisenlord
Bunny Ford
Richard Frisbie
Sharon Fuller
Don Gosney
Arnie Kasendorf
Jil Kiernan
Kent Kitchingman
Stephen Linsley
Sharon Maves
Scott Miller
Margaret Morkowski
Nagaraja Rao
Jean Siri
Elinor Strauss
Eileen Whitty

You Are Invited to Attend

The Point Molate Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) provides a forum for community members, the Navy, and state and federal regulatory agencies to discuss cleanup issues and approaches. The RAB currently meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every other month at 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond City Library – Madeline F. Whittlesey Community Room. The meetings are open to the public, and the RAB and the Navy encourage you to attend.

Knowledgeable speakers are also available to discuss Point Molate environmental cleanup issues with your community interest group.



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INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Environmental cleanup site-related documents are available for public review at:

Richmond Redevelopment Agency
 (510) 307-8157
 330 25th Street
 Richmond, CA 94804
 Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Richmond Public Library
 (510) 620-6561
 325 Civic Center Plaza
 Richmond, CA 94804
 Hours: M-Th 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
 F & Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Su 1-5 p.m.

Point Molate Focus

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